MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X no

Property Name: Ascension Chapel	Inventory Number: M: 21-136
Address: Frederick & Summit Avenues	City: _Gaithersburg Zip Code:
County: Montgomery	USGS Topographic Map:
Owner:	
Tax Parcel Number: Tax Map Number:	Tax Account ID Number:
Project:	Agency:
Site visit by MHT staff: X noyes Name:	
Is the property is located within a historic district? ye	sno
If the property is within a district District Inve	entory Number:
NR-listed districtyes Eligible districtyes Na	me of District:
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resourceyes	no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes
If the property is not within a district (or the property is a dis	strict) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yesno
Criteria: A B C D Consi	iderations: AB C D E FG None
Documentation on the property/district is presented in:	
Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use of	continuation shoot if unconstant and attach man and whote
of richly textured exterior surfaces, achieved by board and ba	the influence of the Gothic Revival style. These include the use tten siding and the slate and scalloped pressed metal covering on saithersburg's oldest church which has been in continuous use as a
Prepared by:	Date Prepared:
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility	y not recommended
Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations:	_ AB C D E F GNone
MHT Comments The Ascension Chapel was federally determined eligible for the comments of the co	he National Register of Historic Places.
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
Carol D. Shull	November 05, 1979
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

HISTORIC

DESIGNATION

APPLICATION

FORM

City of Gaithersburg, Maryland

APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE BY:

Gaithersburg Historic District Commission

	Historic Designation Application No HD <u>#2</u>
	Filed <u>April 6, 1983</u>
>,	Sign Posted
USE ONLY	Ad Published
	P.C. Referral Date
OFFICIAL	HDC Public Hearing
	HDC Decision/Date Withdrawn - Prior Baselution No. - Brublee hearing
Ó	Resolution No ts public healen

	HISTORIC SITE		HISTORIC	HISTORIC RESOURCE		HISTORIC DISTRICT	
	Histo		n Episcopal Chapel	1			
2	LOC/ Addre	ATION ess 202 S. Summit	: Avenue, Gaithers	sburg, Maryland 2	0877		
	PLE <i>A</i> PROI	ASE FURNISH T POSED FOR DESIG	HE FOLLOWING	INFORMATION	ABOUT THE F	PROPERTY(IES)	
DIST	RICT	SUBDIVISION	NAME CODE	LOT/BLOCK	ACRES/FEET	SUBDIVISION TRACT NAME	
9		201	EPISCOPACH Acct. 2148476	N 472/FT 561	39/57,405 s.f.		
9		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •					
9							
9		·					
4	Cont	inue on separate she	eet.	1.			

-2-

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Ascension Chapel	
Planning Area/Site Number 21/2	3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 15
4. Address Frederick and Summit Avenue	
5. Classification Summary	
Category building Ownership private Public Acquisition NA Status occupied Accessible yes: restricted Present use religious Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC	Federal State X County X Local
(little and date: Inventory of His	torical Sites - 1976)
6. Date 1882 8. Apparent Condition	7. Original Owner: Vestry of Prince George's Parish in Montgomery County
a. good	c. original site
b. altered	
three tiered tower, the bottom section smallest. There is a two bay, one stochurch has four over four double hung shutters. On the south elevation, two windows flank an arched, fixed, stains	ry addition on the south elevation. The
sister Sarah, conveyed to the "vestry County" part of his Summit Hall land i	ellum, a prominent local farmer, and his of Prince George's Parish in Montgomery n 1881. The vestry building committee

Jl Date researched and researcher 1/79-Mark Walston Candy Reed Arch. Description 12. Compiler Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled 14. Designation Approval_ 15. Acreage 0.9125 acre

the Diocese of Washington.

in 1882 and dedicated "in the presence of a large congregation", in 1885. 1966, the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of

Washington (heir of Prince George's Parish) conveyed the peoperty to the newly organized Vestry of the Ascension Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church of ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHAPEL
Frederick and Summit Avenues
Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, Maryland
.925 Acre

This building is significant as the oldest church still in use in Gaithersburg. Constructed in 1882, by a local carpenter on land donated by the prominent DeSellum family, the chapel's original exterior is largely intact. It is a modest gable-roofed structure, one bay wide and four deep, with board-and-batten siding and a steeply pitched slate roof with a band of imbricated slates. A three tiered tower emphasizes the entrance on the north elevation. The three sections of the tower decrease in size from bottom to top; the lowest section is clad in board and batten siding, and contains double panelled doors surmounted by a two light transom. Above this, the central section is clad in scalloped pressed metal. The top section, again board and batten, incorporates lowered openings on four (4) sides. A pyramidal metal covered roof with bell-cast eaves caps the tower.

Windows are 4/4 double hung sash with black louvered shutters. The south elevation hold two small stained glass diamond paned casements flanking an arched stained glass window.

A shed roofed addition extends from the south. The interior of the chapel was substantially renovated in 1971.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 21/136 Old Gaithersburg Historic District

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME			
HISTORIC			
Ascension Chapel			*
AND/OR COMMON			8
2 LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER			
Frederick and Summit Avenues		•	
city, fown Gaithersburg		CONGRESSIONAL DIS	TRICT
STATE	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
Maryland		Montgomery	
3 CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP DISTRICT PUBLIC	STATUS	PRE	SENT USE
XBUILDING(S) X PRIVATE	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
STRUCTUREBOTH	—UNOCCUPIED —WORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL	PARK
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
OBJECTIN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAINMENT	12=2.0.000
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	_NO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATION
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY			OTHER:
			*
Vestry of Ascension Parish		Molecke, W. 6	
street & NUMBER Frederick and Summit Avenues		Telephone #: 9	26-9067
City town Gaithersburg			
	VICINITY OF	STATE, 2 Maryland	ip code
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	Tiber # 0500	
COURTHOUSE,		Liber #: 3596	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery Count	ty Courthouse	Folio #: 240	
STREET & NUMBER			
CITY.TOWN Rockville		STATE	
		Maryland	
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
M-NCPPC Inventory of H			
M-NCPPC Inventory of H	<u>istorical Site:</u>	S	
1976	FEDERAL \(\)	XSTATE X COUNTY _LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR		LOCAL	
SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's	Office		
Rockville		STATE	
TOCKATITE		Maryland	20855
	,		

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED __RUINS

__UNALTERED XALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

X_GOOD __FAIR

__UNEXPOSED

DATE... __MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one bay by four bay, one and a half story frame church faces

Built on fieldstone foundations, the church has white board and north. batten siding. On the north elevation three poured concrete steps with flanking wrought iron handrails lead up to double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a two light transom. These doors are set into the base of a three-tiered tower. The bottom section is the largest and the top is the smallest. The middle section is separated from the upper and lower sections by a skirt roof. The tower is capped by a pyramidal roof surmounted by a cross. There is two bay, one story south addition.

The church has four over four double hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. On the south elevation there are two small diamond-paned stained glass casement windows flanking an arched fixed

stained glass window. The gable roof has slate shingles with a broad fishscale stripe. The south addition has a shed roof with raised seam metal covering.

The north doors open into a small entry way. A pair of hollow core doors with oval lights open into the church. A single aisle, flanked by twelve rows of blonde wooden pews leads to the altar rail. The aisle continues past a pair of flanking triple engaged columns to the altar. The altar is beautiful; it is carved golden oak with a harvest motif. The organ is located southeast of the altar and the choir is on the northwest side of the altar. The simple podiums flank the aisle at the altar rail.

There is narrow hardwood flooring and plasterboard walls with an

acoustical tile ceiling.

Three separate alterations have been made to Ascension Chapel. 1923, an addition was built for a separate chancel; in 1936 the chancel was enlarged; and in 1971 the interior of the chapel was substantially remodeled to provide more seating and space for communion.

—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 _X4800-1899 —1900-	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC —ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC —AGRICULTURE —ARCHITECTURE —ART —COMMERCE —COMMUNICATIONS	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH —COMMUNITY PLANNING —CONSERVATION —ECONOMICS —EDUCATION —ENGINEERING —EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT —INDUSTRY —INVENTION	LAND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XRELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DATE	is 1882	BUILDER/ARCH	IITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This frame church is situated on a small parcel of land donated by John T. DeSellum. Ascension Chapel is significant as the oldest church still in use in the City of Gaithersburg. On July 16, 1881, John T. DeSellum and his sister Sarah conveyed to "the vestry of Prince George's Parish in Montgomery County, all that part of 'Summit Hall' on the turnpike road from Beorgetown to Frederick City...containing 3 roods and 26 square perches." [1] (DeSellum had patented "Summit Hall", encompassing 251.5 acres, in 1857, [2]) and was a Presbyterian. The vestry building committee contracted with a local carpenter to construct the church, and the chapel was completed in 1882. The chapel was dedicated on July 17, 1885. The Montgomery County

Sentinel reported the ceremonies thus:

The new Protestant Episcopal Church at Gaithersburg was consecrated on Friday last in the presence of a large congregation by Rt. Reverend W. Paret, bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, assisted by Revs. J.B. Averitt, R. T. Brown and O. Hutton. The exercises were of the most impressive character, supplemented by an able sermon by the bishop. Several persons were confirmed. A handsome collection was taken up for diocesian mission. [3]

On June 2, 1966, the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Washington (heir of Prince George's Parish) conveyed the property to the newly organized Vestry of the Ascension Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese

- 1. Deed EBP 24/254, Montgomery County Land Records
- 2. Patent EBP 2/554, Montgomery County Land Records 3. Montgomery County Sentinel, July 24, 1885

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Iand Records
Montgomery County Sentinel, July 24, 1885

			a	T 13	NECESSARY
COMMITATITE	ΔM	CEDARATE	SHEET	TT	MFCFららなせた。
CONTINOE	OT/	Chittathar			

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.9125 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Candy Reed - Architectural Description
Mark Walston	DATE
organization Sugarloaf Regional Trails	January 1979 TELEPHONE
STREET & NUMBER	926-4510
Box 87, Stronghold	STATE
CITY OR TOWN	Maryland
Dickerson	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

The main building of the Ascension Chapel is a 1½ story wood frame structure fashioned in the Carpenter Gothic meetinghouse architecture. It is 1 X 4 bay with white board and batten vertical siding. The gable roof is slate with a broad fishscale stripe on each side and has a wide overhang with exposed rafters. A three-tiered tower is at the north end of the church, with the bottom tier being the largest. The main entrance to the Chapel is located here. The steeple and the cross are on the top tier and have a pressed tin covering. The middle tier of the tower is separated from the top and bottom by a skirted roof and is noticeably different in that the board and batten siding runs horizontal. The windows of the Chapel are 4/4 double hung with black wooden louvered shutters. A bevelled water table surrounds the structure. The Chapel is built on a fieldstone foundation and has an earthen basement.

The addition to the rear of the church (south) is the chancel and is a 2 bay, 1 story structure. The roof is pressed tin. The back wall of the chancel contains three beautiful windows - one is an arched stained glass window showing Christ as a shepherd. This window was given by J. Spriggs Poole in memory of his mother, Rebecca Poole. The other two windows, one on either side, are diamond-paned stencil glass windows.

The double doorway in the tower leads to a small entry way inside, and a second pair of doors leads to the sanctuary. A single center aisle passes twelve rows of pews to the altar, which is of carved golden oak. The floors are hardwood but are carpeted, the walls are wainscoating from floor to window level and plaster-board to the ceiling, and the ceiling is an accoustical tile.

The Ascension Chapel has undergone various alterations in it 100 year existence. In 1923 the addition was built to the rear of the Chapel to house the chancel, which in 1936 was enlarged. In 1971 the interior of the main building was remodeled to provide more seating and offer better communion services. The altar was moved forward and elevated with a series of steps. The organ was moved behind the altar and a choir loft was added. New blonde pews with kneelers were purchased from the Silver Spring Hebrew Congregation.

Period

	· ·			
Prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	Archeology-prehistoric Archeology-historic Agriculture Architecture Art Commerce Communications	Community Planning Conservation Economics Education Engineering Exploration/ Settlement Industry	Landscape Architecture Law Literature Military Music Philosophy Politics/ Government	Religion Science Sculpture Social/Humanitarian Theater Transportation Other (specify)

construction dates:

Specific Dates

1881-1882

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance

The Ascension Chapel is important to the history of Gaithersburg because it is a part of the history of Gaithersburg. At the time of its construction, it was one of only three churches in the town and today it is the oldest church in Gaithersburg. It shows the growth and importance of a religious sect in the community, and the continual increase over the years in the size of its congregation shows its ability to satisfy a need of the townspeople. The structure is located on its original site on the city's major artery and is a visual landmark of the City.

This meetinghouse-styled chapel is of Carpenter Gothic architecture. There is a central entrance tower at the front of the structure where the main entrance, the steeple, and the cross are found. The roof is slate and the exterior walls are vertical board and batten. The chancel is located in a 1923 addition at the rear of the main building. The Chapel has gone through some alterations but its outward appearance remains relatively untouched. Its physical appearance and characteristics make it truly a unique landmark of the City.

This site is being considered for designation on the basis of the following criteria as stated in the zoning ordinance:

sec. 24-225:

1.A. has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, county, state, or nation.

- 2.A. embodies the distinctive characteristic of a type period or method of construction
- 2.E. represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or city due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape
- 2.F. embodies design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ambience to the city's sense of time, place, and historic development

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The Ascension Chapel was created from the Prince George's Parish Church Christ Church in Rockville, but it was not the Parish's first attempt to bring a
chapel to the people of upper Montgomery County. In two separate attempts
(1799 and 1826), the Seneca Chapel was built to provide for the needs of the people,
but the demand did not prove to be great enough and both failed.

In 1880 the Vestry of the Prince George's Parish decided to make another attempt to provide a chapel along the Frederick Road and appointed a building committee made up of J. Spriggs Poole, George Fenton Snouffer, and David Griffith. This time Gaithersburg was chosen and land for the new chapel was donated by John T. DeSellum, a local prominent farmer, and his sister, Sarah. This land was located at the intersection of Summit Avenue and Frederick Avenue and was part of the DeSellum's Summit Hall farm which lay to the south.

The community of Gaithersburg provided support for this new Chapel by holding various fund raising activities. By 1881, construction was ready to begin and the committee hired a local carpenter to build the Chapel. The Chapel was completed in 1882. The first service held was in 1884 and was a confirmation service by the Rt. Reverend Dr. Perry, Bishop of Iowa. The next service was not until 1885 when the Rt. Reverend Dr. William Paret consecrated the Chapel in title and name of the Ascension Chapel, followed by a confirmation service. The Chapel was dedicated on July 17, 1885 and the Montgomery County Sentinel had this to report on the day's ceremonies, "The new Protestant Episcopal Church at Gaithersburg was consecrated Friday by Rt. Rev. W. Paret, bishop of the Diocese of Maryland and assisted by Rev. J. B. Averitt, R. T. Brown, and O. Hutton. The exercises were of the most impressive character supplemented by an able sermon by the bishop. Several persons were confirmed. A handsome collection was taken up for diocesan mission." (7/24/1885)

In 1955, the Chapel separated itself from Prince George's Parish to become a Diocesan Mission and in 1965 it became a separate parish. In its 100 years of existence, this structure has served as a chapel, a mission church, and a parish church.

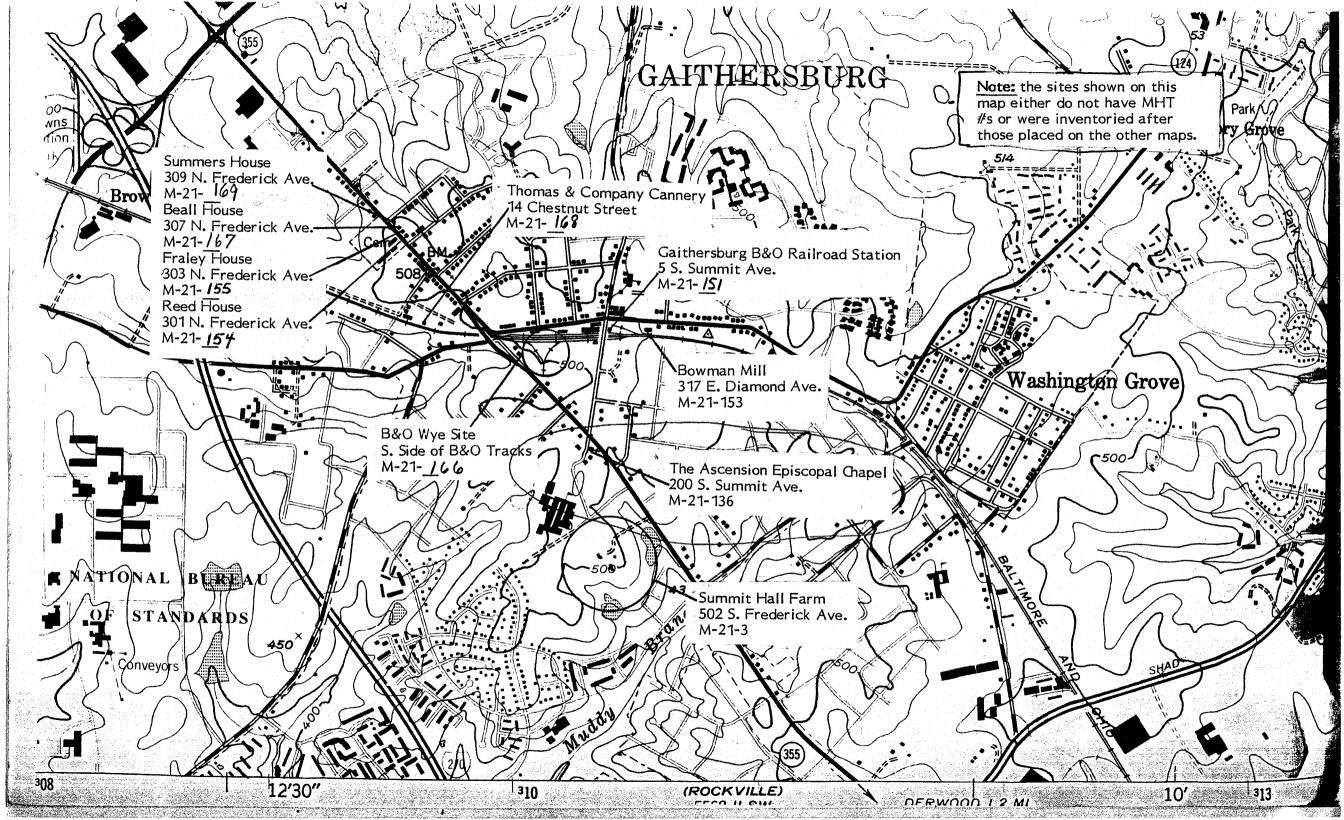
9	SURROUNDING LAND USES	M: 21-136
	North Frederick Avenue/St. Martin's	4
	EastFrederick Avenue/residential	
	South Gaithersburg High School/new Ascension Church	
	West Parish Hall/residential	
	· ·	
10	INFORMATION SOURCES	
	see below	
11	ATTACHMENTS	
	Exterior Black and White Views	
	Two (2) Location Maps - scale I" = 200'	
<u>10</u> .	Darr, Marjorie - Sugarloaf Regional Trails, Landmarks Research Form	, 1977
	Gaithersburg, The Heart of Montgomery County, 1978	

Interview with Mrs. Carol Diamond, church member

Minnick, Rev. M. F., History of Prince George's Parish, 1951

Walston, Mark - Maryland Historic Trust Survey Form, 1979









m; #21-136

NAME ASCENSION CHAPEL

LOCATION Rt. 355 GAITHERSBURG, Md. FACADE NE
PHOTO TAKEN 10/24/74 M DWYER



n; +21-136

NAME ASCENSION CHAPEL

LOCATION Rt. 355 GAITHERS BURG, Md.

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 10/24/74 M DWYER